

IS AMERICA TO BECOME A LUNATIC ASYLUM?

It is now being proposed by a lot of hypocrites in congress to pass a series of Sunday blue laws in conformity with the old despicable Puritanical notions of the days when they burned witches, and tortured children and disgusted youth on the Sabbath. These hypocrites propose that in this country the railroads shall not run on Sunday, newspapers shall not be published, games shall not be played, no amusements shall be tolerated. There is something more than mere idiosyncrasy in this plan. We are just now battling for the salvation of society endangered by economic conditions, and we are urging all over the world a speeding up process and here we have it proposed that freight trains shall stop where they are at midnight on Saturday night and not move an inch until Monday and that letters which are the life of trade, shall not be carried on a train that day. We are not to be permitted to ride on trains or interurbans or street cars, and only those who can afford automobiles shall be allowed to travel in this land of equal rights. If a father or a mother or a husband, or a wife should be dying 70 miles away it is to be made impossible to reach their bedside on Sunday on trains or interurbans. That such idiosyncrasy should be advanced in this day seems impossible, and yet the measure is being pushed with the assistance of organizations, and Senator McKellar of Tennessee has been importuned to sponsor the bill. Happily for his reputation for sanity he has refused to link his name with anything so grotesque. It is unfortunate that the long haired men and the short haired women of Boobyland can not be interned to the end that normal creatures may be spared the necessity of eternally battling against their assaninity. Pass laws like these and the people will be justified in their contempt for law, and their hate of government.

The real desecration of the Sabbath should cease, but there will always be a wide difference of opinion as to what constitutes desecration. There is more of human kindness and Christian charity and honesty in the hearts of the people today than there ever was in the hearts of the hypocritical old Puritans who pose sanctimoniously as the better-than-thous of history. If this sort of thing continues personal liberty will soon be a thing of the past and America will be a lunatic asylum.—East Wayne (Ind.) Gazette.

WILL CONSTRUCT MANY MILES

Between 9,000 and 10,000 miles of the marked trails which now crisscross the country from east to west and north to south are to be constructed by Federal aid. This amount is composed of 865 projects, which form links in one or the other of the 24 marked trails which have been laid out by private associations.

Every automobile is familiar with the Dixie Highway, the Mohawk Trail the Roosevelt Highway, and a score of other marked trails, which are so well built and maintained that driving on them is a joy and comfort. To assist in building these highways a Federal fund of \$64,533,019 has been approved by the Bureau of Public Roads of the United States Department of Agriculture up to September 30, 1920.

These trails do not constitute an entirely satisfactory system of transcontinental roads, as officials of the department say their selection in many cases has been influenced too much by such factors as pre-existing conditions, promises of improvements by local communities, to touch points of scenic and historical interest.

The extent to which Federal aid has been applied to the trails varies in the different states. Naturally the Western states are using much more of their Federal apportionments in developing roads of this character than the Eastern states. This is due to the fact that the trails in the Eastern states had already been improved to a large extent before the roads were selected by the pathfinders. This was not true in the West, where long stretches of the selected roads were still in an unimproved condition when they were designated.

Nevada leads in its use of Federal funds on roads of this character. Eighty-three per cent of its entire mileage of approved Federal-aid roads lies on one or the other of the trails which cross the States. On these roads Nevada will spend 90 per cent of the Federal money which has been granted to her.

THE ONLY SAFE PLACE

Sing Sing convicts through the medium of their "official publication" the Sing Sing Bulletin, congratulated themselves on their safety from the crime wave sweeping New York.

"Isn't it a pleasant sensation when the keeper locks the cell doors at night the feeling of security that comes to us as we drift away into dreamland?" said an editorial in the Christmas issue of the Bulletin.

"It wouldn't be a bad idea to build a wall around New York City and keep all their crooks there instead of sending them up the river to contaminate the inmates of Sing Sing."

The editorial declares the deeds of New Jersey and New York City criminals are too craven to be compared with those of the men "doing time" in Sing Sing.

8,558 PEOPLE DIE FIRST HALF OF YEAR

(By Dr. A. R. Lewis, State Health Commissioner.) During the first six months of 1920 a total of 8,558 persons died in Oklahoma. For this same period last year (Jan. to June) there were 7,186 deaths. On the face of these figures, which have been compiled by the Vital Statistics bureau of the State Health department, it would appear that the number of deaths in Oklahoma is increasing.

Just the contrary is true. There were in reality fewer deaths but the reports were more complete, hence the larger total. The 1920 report is 12 per cent better than that of 1919. Of the 8,558 deaths, 3,390 were from preventable disease. This is almost one-third and entirely too high a rate. It is a blot upon the record of any state when one out of every three persons dies needlessly. By a better understanding of health and sanitary laws, nearly one-third of the 1920 deaths might have been prevented.

But the state spends too little on the health of its citizens. It pays out about six times as much each month for gasoline as it does for public health. With a better enforcement of the quarantine laws there would be fewer epidemics. But the County Health Officers, upon whose shoulders lies the responsibility of enforcement is paid so little—in many cases only \$200 per year—that he cannot devote as much time to the work as would be beneficial.

The sanitary conditions also have a direct bearing upon the health of a community. The State Health Board has but 10 inspectors, and their work is hampered by an insufficient allowance for traveling expenses. With a substantial increase in pay for both the County Health Officers and State Inspectors, the preventable disease list would show a decided decrease. According to reports sent to the Vital Statistics bureau, the following disease caused 3,390 deaths during the first six months of 1920: Influenza 1253; Pneumonia 1137; Tuberculosis 552; Whooping cough 170; Diphtheria 102; Measels 75; Pellagra 28; Typhoid 22; Scarlet fever 19; Meningitis 13; Smallpox 11 and Infantile paralysis 8.

COUNTIES VOLUNTARILY ASK FOR EXTENSION OF PERIOD

Owing to the numerous requests from various counties that the Tuberculosis Christmas Seal sale be extended, Jules Schevitz, general secretary of the Oklahoma Public Health Association, announced here today that the sale will be continued throughout Oklahoma to and including Christmas day. Original dates of the sale were from December 1 to 15.

Extension of the sale period was asked because in many places it was found that seals were selling more rapidly with the approach of Christmas. Due to the press of Christmas shopping and other details, many prospective purchasers neglected buying seals. Now that Christmas is approaching, however, and the "Christmas spirit" is growing, sales are made much more easily.

Reports from all parts of the state indicate a good sale of seals. Many counties, however, started the sale late, and it was particularly from those places that requests for continuance were most urgent.

Some towns and counties hope to approach or exceed the 10-seals-per-capita goal set for 1920, although the state as a whole only bought 2.8 seals per capita last year. If Oklahoma exceeds its 1919 seal sale record, it will be able to do much health promotion work which otherwise will be neglected.

Continued demands for further supplies of seals and health bonds indicates that the sale is still making active progress.

Filipinos Deserve Independence

The Manila riot, a fight between two bodies of police, may remind the country that the Filipinos have been among the few people on earth which have been tranquil during the last five years. Of course it is only a big disturbance that makes a noise across the Pacific, and doubtless the Filipinos have had quarrels and broils that we have not heard through the din of the western world. Still, after making ample allowance on that score, one is left with reason for congratulating the Filipinos on the serenity that has been theirs while supposedly more civilized peoples have been spending their energies in works of slaughter and destruction. One might also envy them if it were not that, in doing so, one would credit them with superior attainment in the art of government. And as it is, one must admit that their refusal to take advantage of the opportunity the war gave them to overthrow the sovereignty of the United States in their country and the admirable decorum they have shown—pleaded persuasively in favor of their prayer for independence.—Dallas News.

CARD OF THANKS

We desire to express our appreciation of the many acts of kindness of our friends and neighbors during the sickness and at the time of the death of our father, J. N. Renegan. L. S. Renegan. Mrs. Ida Koonce. Mrs. Virgie Jackson. Aylesworth, Oklahoma.

EUROPEAN CHILDREN ARE SLOWLY DYING

Countless hundreds of thousands of European children are dying slowly this winter of starvation, exposure and the diseases that follow undernourishment, according to Emile Offenbacher of Tulsa, who has just returned from a trip to Europe. Mr. Offenbacher is an oil man, president of the Arrow Gasoline Company, and an officer in many other oil and gas corporations.

He visited France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland and remnants of what was once Austria. He left Tulsa in May of this year and has been home only a short time.

"Austria is the hardest hit of any of the countries I visited," Mr. Offenbacher said, "although France and Germany are suffering severely from the effects of the war. I have seen hundreds of children on the streets, clad only in rags, and begging for a crust of bread or a bone with which to keep a spark of life in their bodies. Medical attention cannot be had. They are dying rapidly, and it seems to be almost the policy of Europe to let children die—because they are better off dead."

In order to bring relief to these pitiful little unfortunates, the European Relief Council has affected a national organization headed by Herbert Hoover. John R. Hadley of this city is Oklahoma chairman, and the people of Oklahoma are asked to contribute as liberally as possible between December 19 and 26. "Have a starving European child as your Christmas guest" is the slogan of the council.

Organizations taking part in the campaign are the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Knights of Columbus, Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, American Friends' Service committee and Federal Council of the Churches in America. County organizations are now being perfected in every county in Oklahoma.

THE PRINCE AND THE PAWNBROKER

The German Reichstag paused in its affairs the other day to discuss the fortunes of the erstwhile crown prince. It appears that this pampered young man is hard up, and that to relieve his mental and gastronomic anguish, his wife has pawned—or was it sold?—a valuable diamond ring. The transaction occurred in Holland, but some of the members of the reichstag were outraged because the affair had the aspect of smuggling. The debate on the matter was lifeless until Dr. Breitscheid arose and said:

"He (the crown prince), is a young man, and if he is in want, he can work. And if he cannot find a job, we will see that he gets unemployment insurance. Why shouldn't he enjoy the same rights as any other working man?"

There were strenuous objections from the Conservative side of the house, which still is under the shadow of royalist influence. The mere suggestion that a Hohenzollern should work with his hands aroused the old-time prejudice among the Junkers still extant. But the fact that the majority roared its approval of Dr. Breitscheid's suggestion shows that the heaven of democracy in Germany has not entirely soured in the pan.

Whatever the German idea of Freddie's going to work may be, the world at large would enjoy the sight Real work, the kind which develops hard muscles and calloused hands, would do the crown prince a great deal of good. A stone mason's job in the districts of France which his royal highness helped to ruin, or a couple of rainy seasons behind the plow in the shell-pitted region near Verdun, are suggested. But what are suggestions worth as long as wife's jewels hold out, or papa's purse strings retain their original elasticity?—Cincinnati Times-Star.

NEWSPAPER PLANT BURNS

Monday morning the plant of the Konawa Chief-Leader at Konawa, a small town not far from Ada, was destroyed by fire, originating in a defective flue. Part of the hardware stock of Michael Porch was also destroyed.

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A. AND M. STUDENT WINS INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

In the stock judging contest held in connection with the International Live-stock Exposition at Chicago December 1, W. B. Forrester of Stewart, Oklahoma, a senior at Oklahoma A. and M. College, won first place among 105 contestants. The second place was won by Mitchell of Purdue University. Forrester's total score was 831 points, being 15 points ahead of his nearest competitor. This is an honor that is coveted by all animals husbandry students, it being the very highest that can be won in that field.

Twenty-one teams, representing the leading agricultural colleges of the United States and Canada, took part in the contest. A. and M. College team, with a total score of 3431 points, won tenth place. The team was coached by Professor W. L. Blizard, head of the department of Animal Husbandry. The men composing the team and their home address are: W. B. Forrester, Stewart; H. A. Graham, Abbott, Arkansas; C. Classen, Stillwater; C. L. Bunyard, Stillwater; O. Nash, Paden.

HALF OKMULGEE COTTON LEFT

Nearly a half of Okmulgee county's cotton crop has been abandoned in the fields according to D. P. Trent, county farm agent. Few farmers are holding their crop for higher prices as there are no storehouses in the county. Cotton in the seed is selling for \$2.70 and it costs \$2 for the picking alone. It is estimated that this year's crop was much larger than the 1918 crop in this county which amounted to 9,332 bales picked from 29,162 acres. Cattle have been turned into forty per cent of the cotton fields in the state to graze on the unpicked crop, according to Mr. Trent.

CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER SCHOOL

Beginning with January Seventh at 1:30 p. m., Supt. Cunningham will open an active campaign for better schools for Bryan County. The campaign will open with a school board meeting in the District Court Room on the above mentioned date.

State Supt. R. H. Wilson will be the speaker of the occasion. However, several other State Educators will attend and take part in the meeting. Among those who will be on program are Mrs. M. O'Daniel Rimsland, County Superintendent of Johnston

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County and Supt. Johnson of the City schools of Marietta, Oklahoma. Great good should come to the schools of the County from this general get-together meeting. Every one interested in better school conditions should attend. School board members will get either a written or personal invitation to come, and a cordial invitation is extended to all.

WON'T PROSECUTE CLARA

Mrs. Jake Hamon, of Ardmore, is quoted as saying that she will not prosecute the case against Clara Smith Hamon, even though the fugitive shall be apprehended and returned to Ardmore. Mrs. Hamon is quoted as saying that her husband told her he accidentally shot himself and that she believes it.

DR. A. L. STOUT

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But the New Year, soon to be ushered in fills us all with renewed Determination and Courage, in the belief that it will bring respite from the hard times we have experienced in the past.

So let's all of us hold our heads high, fill our lungs with pure air and strike out for home.

We wish you all a Merry, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year—1921

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